Call to Order and Vice-Dean’s Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 9:36 am by the Vice-Dean, Undergraduate & International, Professor Pamela Klassen, who welcomed everyone. The meeting started with a quick round of introductions.

1. Report from the Vice-Dean, Undergraduate & International

Vice-Dean Klassen addressed the committee on five items.

PCL218H1: Cannabis the Drug:

She informed the committee that the new course proposal for PCL218H1 was approved by the Sciences Curriculum Committee the day before. She wanted to bring the course to this committee’s attention as some academic units might be interested in offering courses that explore cannabis from other perspectives. Through different rounds of consultation, the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology had arrived at an appropriate course title to accompany the course description.

Consultation re: Curriculum Development:

Vice-Dean Klassen emphasized the importance of consultation between academic units when developing curriculum proposals. Consultation would involve conversing with the associate chair (or a similar counterpart) of an academic unit who is knowledgeable about the systematic aspect of their unit’s curriculum.

Discontinuing Use of CGPA in Course Prerequisites:

The Faculty is discontinuing the use of CGPA as an entry requirement to a course or program of study. The CGPA encompasses an entirety of courses taken by a student and very often includes courses that are not relevant to the actual course or program in which the student is hoping to enrol. The Dean’s Office recommends academic units to ask for specific grades in courses that really matter when proposing course prerequisites or enrolment requirements to programs. Vice-Dean Klassen stated that she would provide further guidelines down the road.
Online Courses:

The Dean’s Office is undertaking a review of existing online courses to examine their impact on the wider curriculum. If an academic unit is currently offering online courses to its students, the Dean’s Office may approach the unit to engage in further conversations. In addition, the Dean’s Office will strike a sub-committee to further explore issues and implications with respect to online courses.

Grading Schemes in Courses:

Finally, Vice-Dean Klassen encouraged associate chairs to be mindful when reviewing the course syllabi of their academic unit’s courses to ensure that the grading schemes are appropriate. It would be ideal for students to receive early and regular feedback so that they could decide if they should remain in a course prior to its drop date. She acknowledged the efforts by academic units to strike a balance between managing the workload associated with grading and the need for students to obtain timely feedback. She also stated that the April round of curriculum committee meetings would allow for more policy-related discussions.

2. Approval of Minutes of the November 12, 2018 Meeting of Humanities Curriculum Committee

The meeting minutes were approved.

3. Course and Program Modifications for Abbreviated/Expedited Review

No issues were raised.

4. Major Program Modifications

Sexual Diversity Studies, Mark S. Bonham Centre for:

Dr. Dai Kojima, Undergraduate Director of the Centre, presented the proposal to modify both the Sexual Diversity Studies Specialist and the Sexual Diversity Studies Major. He indicated that these program modifications originated from the Centre’s 2016-17 self-study and external review.

To respond to the shift in the field of sexual diversity studies towards such subjects/topics as intersectionality, transnationalism, and queer theory, the Centre proposed new permanent courses that had previously been taught as special topics to fill a few gaps in the existing curriculum. These courses would include SDS385H1 (Queer Indigenous Politics and Cultures), SDS465H1 (Queer Migrations and Refugee Politics), and SDS485H1 (Advanced Seminar in Queer Theory). The creation of a new First-Year Foundations seminar course would offer the opportunity for students to learn about the intersectional approaches to the study of sexual diversity. Furthermore, the establishment of thematic clusters in Politics & Policy, Formations & Practices, and Media & Aesthetics would ensure students develop sufficient breadth in their study of sexual diversity.

A member inquired about the existence of socioeconomics-related content in the courses grouped within the Politics & Policy thematic cluster. Dr. Kojima responded that all of the courses within the thematic cluster are interdisciplinary and that a specific example would be SDS365H1: Sexuality and Law.

The program modification proposal for the Sexual Diversity Studies programs was recommended for approval at the February 13, 2019 Arts & Science Council meeting.
5. Minor Program Modifications and Course Proposals for Full Review

University College:

Professor John Marshall, Vice-Principal of University College presented the proposals to create five new courses, modify five existing programs and one existing course, as well as retire four courses.

The majority of the proposed changes stemmed from the College's plan to convert its existing full-credit UC One courses to half-credit courses to align more closely with the Faculty's reimagined First-Year Foundations (FYF) Seminars initiative. With UN102Y1 currently serving as an alternative pathway for students to get into 200-level courses offered by the Centre for Drama, Theatre and Performance Studies, University College intends to split UN102Y1 into UN102H1 (Performing the City I) and UN106H1 (Performing the City II). Professor Marshall confirmed that the new half-credit version of UC One courses would be resource-neutral, and that students would be able to enrol in UN106H1 without having completed UN102H1.

Modifications to the Canadian Studies Major and Specialist stemmed from the proposed retirement of HIS263Y1 (Introduction to Canadian History) that had been approved in Fall 2018. The College would like to create a larger pool of courses from which students could take to fulfill their Canadian content requirement.

Professor Marshall also clarified that the proposed prerequisite and exclusion changes for COG401H1 (Seminar in Cognitive Science) were to ensure access to 400-level COG seminars could be distributed to different students. All of the proposals were approved.

Physics, Department of:

Professor Michael Miller from the Department of Philosophy spoke to the modification proposal for the Physics and Philosophy Specialist that is jointly offered by the Department of Philosophy and the Department of Physics. The proposed changes to this program reflect a shift away from logic to focusing more on metaphysics. This proposal was approved.

United States, Centre for the Study of the:

Dr. Alexandra Rahr from the Centre presented the proposals to modify the American Studies Major and Minor. Changes to these two programs were in response to the Department of English’s decision to convert its second-year full-credit course in American Literature (ENG250Y1) to a half-credit course (ENG250H1) in 2018. The Centre proposed broadening the selection of courses students could take in order to gain exposure to American content. Both of the program modification proposals were approved.

Asian Institute:

There was no one from the unit to speak to the proposals to modify two existing programs. The proposals were already approved once at the Social Sciences Curriculum meeting earlier in the week.

Germanic Languages and Literatures, Department of:

Professor Erol Boran, Associate Chair, Undergraduate Studies presented the proposals to create two new courses, modify one existing program, and retire 12 courses. He confirmed that the renumbered GER334H1 (Transnational
Literatures) course could be taught by many instructors. He added that his department’s courses are not owned by one sole instructor. All of the proposals were approved.

Victoria College:

Dr. Ira Wells, Academic Programs Director, presented the new course proposal for VIC442H1 (The Renaissance Book). This course was previously offered as a special topics course. Students taking this course would have an opportunity to read manuscripts that are up to 500 years old. A comment was raised about the lack of specificity of the proposed prerequisite requirement in spite of the course’s 400-level classification. Dr. Wells indicated that he could consult further with his colleagues at Victoria College. This course proposal was approved.

French, Department of:

Professor Marie-Anne Visoi, Associate Chair, Undergraduate presented the proposals to retire 16 courses. All of the proposals were approved.

Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations, Department of:

Professor Mary-Ann Pouls Wegner, Undergraduate Coordinator, presented the proposals to create one new course and modify two existing courses. In response to the proposed changes for NMC465H1 (Ceramic Analysis) and NMC466H1 (Near Eastern Ceramics), questions were raised about the appropriateness of the more lenient prerequisite requirements. Professor Pouls Wegner responded that students taking these two courses do not need to have prior knowledge in the specific subject areas as they will be learning it directly in class. All of the proposals were approved.

Cinema Studies Institute:

As there was no one from the Institute to speak to the two new course proposals, these were held for the next Humanities Curriculum Committee meeting to be taking place in April 2019.

Drama, Theatre and Performance Studies, Centre for:

As there was no one from the Centre to speak to the proposals to modify/revise 27 courses, these were also held for the next Humanities Curriculum Committee meeting to be taking place in April 2019.

Spanish and Portuguese, Department of:

Professor Anabela Rato from the Department presented the proposals to modify/revise three courses. The proposed decision to remove the Credit/No Credit (CR/NCR) option for SPA100Y1 (Spanish for Beginners) and SPA120Y1 (Accelerated Spanish Through Community Engaged Learning) stemmed from two reasons: statistics showing a poorer performance in SPA100Y1 for students who selected the CR/NCR option compared to students who did not, as well as the large waiting list of over 100 students seen in the most recent offering of SPA100Y1. Vice-Dean Klassen indicated that the Dean’s Office is having a bigger discussion about the CR/NCR option in light of previous discussions on the same topic at the curriculum committee level. All of these proposals were approved.
Religion, Department for the Study of:

Professor Sol Goldberg, Associate Chair, presented the proposals to create five new courses, modify four existing courses and retire four courses. He confirmed that both RLG371H1 (Interdependence) and RLG397H1 (Readings in Early Sikh Texts) would require the completion of 4.0 credits as prerequisite. He also added that the bulk of the course modifications involved changing the prerequisite requirements to make 300-level courses more accessible to students. All of the proposals were approved.

Trinity College:

Professor John Kirton, Interim Director of the International Relations program presented the proposals to modify the International Relations Major and Specialist. Vice-Dean Klassen reminded the committee of the importance of consultation among academic units given the number of courses and programs within the Faculty of Arts & Science that are interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary. Both of the program modification proposals were approved.

History of Art, Department of:

Professor Christy Anderson, Associate Chair, Undergraduate Studies presented the proposals to create two new courses as well as modify the names of her academic unit’s existing programs. The program name changes coincided with the proposal by the Department of the History of Art and Graduate Department of Art to change their academic unit names to the Department of Art History and the Graduate Department of Art History respectively. A member commented that the name changes would eliminate confusion among different stakeholders. Professor Anderson also confirmed that there was consultation with undergraduate students about the proposed name changes.

With respect to the new FAH382H1 (Art Writing) course proposal, the department was recommended to revise the course description so that it would include additional information about the genres of writing in which students would engage (e.g. gallery writing).

Professor Andrea Williams, Director of the Arts & Science Writing-Integrated Teaching initiative (WIT, formerly Writing Instruction for TAs), encouraged the committee to contact WIT should academic units require resources and assistance to support area-specific writing. She expressed her excitement to learn more about this course. All of the proposals were approved.

Dr. Martha Harris, Manager of Governance & Curriculum Services at the Faculty of Arts & Science, indicated that the proposal to change the academic unit names for the Department of the History of Art and the Graduate Department of Art would go for further consultation and recommendation at the upcoming Arts & Science Council meeting on February 13, 2019 pending approval by the Graduate Curriculum Committee, which would be meeting later today.

East Asian Studies, Department of:

Professor Graham Sanders, Undergraduate Coordinator, presented the proposals to remove the CR/NCR option for EAS110Y1 (Modern Standard Korean I), EAS120Y1 (Modern Standard Japanese I), and EAS121H1 (Japanese I for Students with Prior Background). Data from the last several years of offerings was presented, showing both EAS110Y1 and EAS120Y1 had a long waiting list for the limited number of spaces available. In addition, students who had selected the CR/NCR option for these courses ended up with an average grade of below passing to just barely passing. The change is expected to improve student experience as well as allow instructors to better manage the three respective courses. All of the proposals were approved.
Philosophy, Department of:

Professor Michael Miller returned to present the new PHL418H1 (Seminar in Indian Philosophy) course proposal. A member stated that their academic unit currently offers a course in Hindu Philosophy. The member would like their unit’s students to be able to access this new course. Professor Miller replied that his department would be open to having a dialogue. It was confirmed that the phrase “or permission of the instructor” would be added to the proposed prerequisite requirement. This course proposal was approved.

English, Department of:

Professor Naomi Morgenstern, Associate Chair and Director of Undergraduate Studies, presented the proposals to create one new course as well as retire one course. For the new ENG269H1 (English Literature and Chinese Translation) course proposal, she indicated that this course might appeal to students who would not normally take an ENG course for fear of struggling, and that the course instructor would likely work closely with colleagues from the Faculty’s English Language Learning program. A member commented that this course might be suitable for students enrolled in the East Asian Studies programs. Professor Morgenstern confirmed that reading knowledge of Mandarin would be required for students interested in taking this course, and the assignments would be completed in English. Both of the proposals were approved.

Innis College:

Since the meeting ran ahead of schedule and there was no one from the College to speak to the new INI308H1 (Selected Topics in Writing and Rhetoric) course proposal, this was held for the next Humanities Curriculum Committee meeting to be taking place in April 2019.

6. Other Business

There was no other business.

7. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 10:58 am.

Minutes prepared by Kevin Mak, Curriculum and Governance Assistant, Faculty of Arts & Science